

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00958 150727Z

13

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /004 W
----- 018269

O 150710Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3468

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0958

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES (BORTKO, THOMAS)

SUBJECT: DEATH OF THOMAS BORTKO

REF: STATE 174237, TRIPOLI 0954

1. BORTKO, WHO HAD ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI LESS THAN A WEEK BEFORE TO WORK WITH LIBYAN CIVIL AVIATION UNDER AUSPICES UNDP AND ICAO, WAS RUSHED TO HOSPITAL BY AN ASSOCIATE ON EVENING JULY 11. HE WAS GIVEN FIRST AID AT PRIVATE CLINIC AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, WHERE HE DIED MINUTES AFTER ARRIVAL.

2. ICAO TEAM LEADER FOUND SYRINGE AND BOTTLE MARKED INSULIN IN BORTKO'S BRIEFCASE. TEAM LEADER AND ACTING UNDP RESIDENT REP. SUSPECT BORTKO MAY HAVE BEEN TAKING INSULIN FOR DIABETIC CONDITION HE HAD CONCEALED FROM UNDP. ALTERNATIVELY, HE MAY HAVE BEEN USING SOME OTHER DRUG. UN OFFICE CONSEQUENTLY SUSPECTS CAUSE OF DEATH AS DRUG OVERDOSE. LIBYAN AUTHORITIES STILL INVESTIGATING CAUSE OF DEATH. AUTOPSY PERFORMED JULY 14 BUT RESULTS NOT YET RELEASED.

3. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF FOUL PLAY DUE TO NATURE OF BORTKO'S EMPLOYMENT AS A TECHNICIAN WITH CIVIL AVIATION.

4. DEPT REQUESTED ADVISE BROTHER-IN-LAW BUGEJA OF ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE. WE WILL SEND HIM ANOTHER
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DIRECT RELAY CABLE AFTER RESULTS OF AUTOPSY AND

INVESTIGATION HAVE BEEN RELEASED.
CARLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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